

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE: 21 JAN 1987

SUBJECT: Request for Expedited Authorization of CERCLA Removal Action
Monies to Provide Site Security at the Arkansas Company Facility,
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

FROM: Thomas M. Kady, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention Branch

TO: Stephen D. Luftig, Acting Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

THRU: Fred N. Rubel, Chief
Response and Prevention Branch

SUMMARY

On January 14, 1987, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) verbally requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conduct a CERCLA removal action at the Arkansas Company, 185 Foundry Street, Newark, New Jersey. The removal action requested will consist of providing security at this abandoned, chemical manufacturing facility. The NJDEP will remain the lead agency for actual cleanup of the site.

Security will consist of providing 24-hr security guard services and boarding the windows and doors of a vandalized building, about half of which is a laboratory containing many known and unknown hazardous substances. The NJDEP estimates that security guards will be required for three months. The estimated cost of providing guard services and securing the vandalized building is \$35,000.

QUANTITIES AND SUBSTANCES PRESENT

Four buildings and two sheds exist on this 2 to 3-acre property. The laboratory in the vandalized building contains many inorganic and organic lab chemicals, most of which are unknown. Between 30 and 50 lab packs exist in this building.

Approximately 500 drums of chemicals are present in a four-story process building. The chemicals include benzyl chloride, acetic acid, formic acid and ethylenediamine, all of which are designated hazardous substances under CERCLA. Several process vessels, between 250 gallons and 1000 gallons in size, contain unidentified materials.

The third building, apparently a machine shop, also contains drums and process vessels. The fourth building is essentially empty.



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A 5-gallon pail of methyl isocyanate was discovered in one of the two storage sheds. Union Carbide removed this material to the company's Institute, West Virginia plant. Other pails of chemicals exist in this shed. The second shed has not been investigated.

THREAT

The threat of fire and explosion exists at this site. On January 10, 1987, trespassers set a fire in the laboratory building. The fire was extinguished by the Newark Fire Department before it spread to the lab. If a fire and/or explosion involving the chemicals abandoned at this site were to occur, toxic fumes could travel to densely populated areas nearby and to the heavily travelled New Jersey Turnpike, located approximately 100 yards away. Fire could also spread to other companies in the immediate area. Some of these companies also manufacture chemicals.

In addition to the threat of fire and explosion, there exists a threat of direct contact with the hazardous substances to trespassers, vandals, curiosity seekers and vagrants.

PROPOSED PROJECT

It is proposed to mitigate this threat of harm to human health and the environment by boarding the doors and windows of the vandalized laboratory building and by providing 24-hr security guard services until the NJDEP can initiate a cleanup.

The cost to board the 34 windows and 3 double doors of the laboratory building is approximately \$1,500. The cost of 24-hr guard services at \$13.00 per hour for 3 months is \$28,080. With contingencies, EPA costs and TAT costs, the total estimated project cost is \$35,000.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you approve this proposed removal action as detailed above. This site meets criteria for a removal action under 40 CFR 300.65 (b) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. Your authority to approve this request was established by Deputy Administrator Alvin Alm's April 16, 1984 Delegation 14-1-A as redelegated to you by Richard T. Dewling's Order RII 1200.6 of August 29, 1984. A more detailed action memo will follow. Please alert us verbally upon your approval of this expedited request.

Approved: SEPL J. Luft

Date: 1/21/87

Disapproved: _____

Date: _____

cc: (After approval is obtained)

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